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the mighty THOR



STAN LEE PRESENTS: **the MIGHTY THOR**

FAR BEYOND THE MORTAL REALM OF TIME AND SPACE LIES ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS.

HERE DWELL THE STORIED FIGURES OF ANCIENT LEGEND... THOSE WHO WERE OLD WHEN THE UNIVERSE WAS YOUNG, OR SO THE MINSTRELS TELL US.

AND THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL THOSE TALES IS THOR, THE THUNDERER, WHOSE MAGIC HAMMER, MJOLNIR, CARRIES HIM INTO THE STARRY FIELDS OF NIGHT.

AT LAST THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO RETURN TO MIDGARD.*

TOO LONG HAVE I TARRIED FAR FROM THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH.

THE GIFT OF DEATH

*EARTH

WRITING-WALTER SIMONSON ART-SAL BUSCEMA LETTERING-JOHN WORKMAN
COLORING-MAX SCHEELE EDITING-RALPH MACCHIO EDITING IN CHIEF-JIM SHOOTER



SUDDENLY...

UGGGGH!

WHAT WEAKNESS IS THIS THAT ASSAILS MY LIMBS? MY HANDS SHAKE AS THOUGH WITH THE PALSY OF AGE!

IS THIS THE ATTACK OF SOME UNSEEN FOE?

YET ALREADY THE EFFECT FADES AND IS GONE.

AND AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, THE HEAVENS ARE DEVOID OF LIFE!

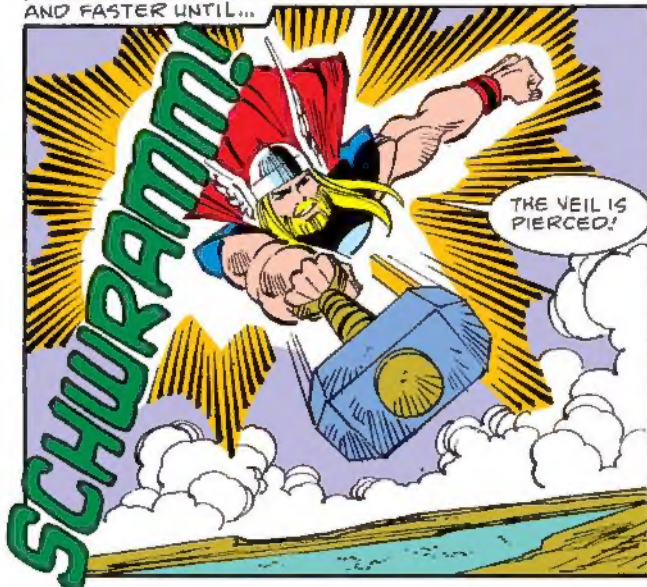
NOT AN ENEMY TO BE SEEN!

PERHAPS THE IMAGINATION OF THOR HAS BECOME A TOO RESTLESS SPIRIT...

...AND THE SON OF ODIN MIGHT FIND BENEFIT IN LESS TIME SPENT FIGHTING FOES AND MORE TIME SPENT IN DULLER PURSUITS.

THE COSMIC STORMS THAT RAGE BETWEEN ASGARD AND EARTH SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE HAVE GROWN EVER MORE FIERCE OF LATE, BUT THE HAMMER OF THOR WILL PROVE THEIR MASTER.

A MOMENT LATER THOR SPINS HIS HAMMER FASTER AND FASTER UNTIL...

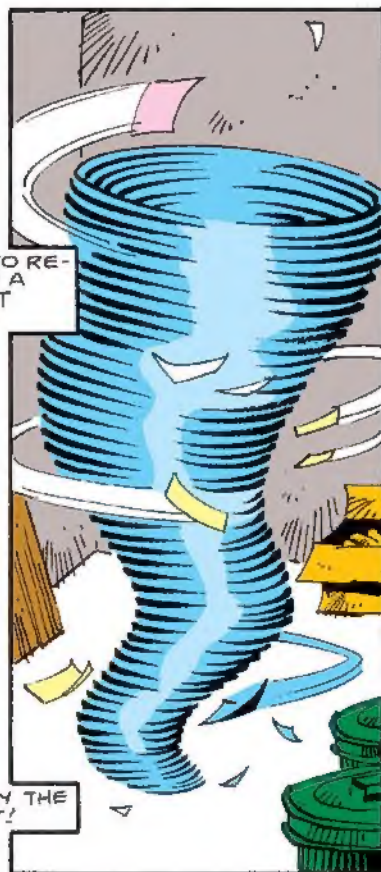
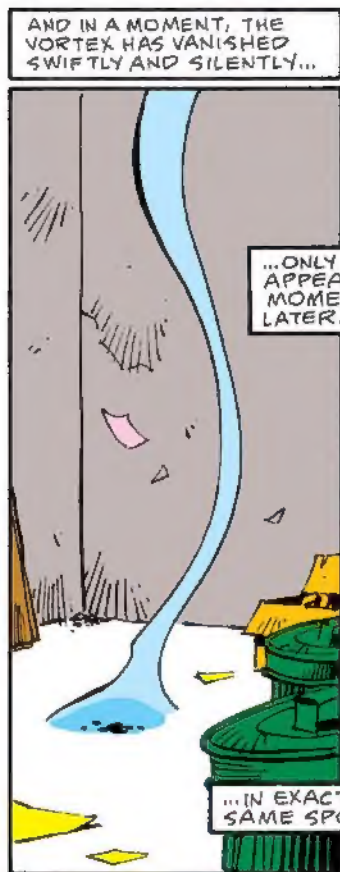
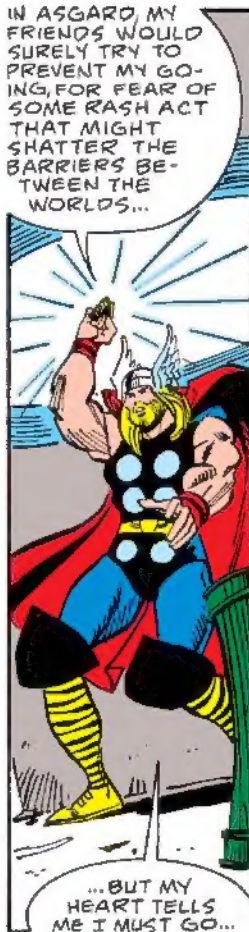
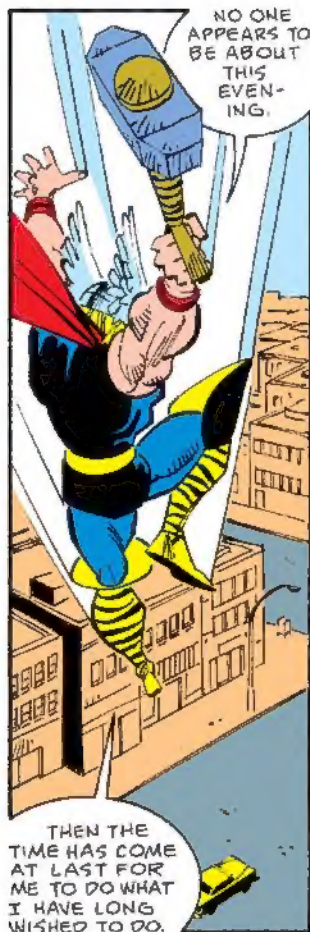


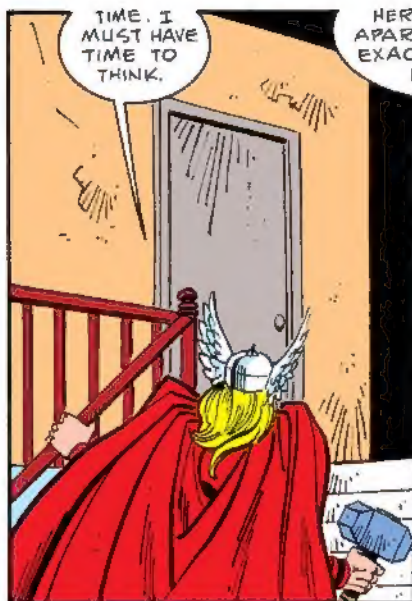
THE VEIL IS PIERCED!

BEFORE ME LIES THE GREAT METROPOLIS OF NEW YORK!

AND IN THE BAY RIDGE SECTION OF BROOKLYN IS THE APARTMENT WHEREIN THOR RESIDES UNDER THE NAME SIGURD JARLSON.

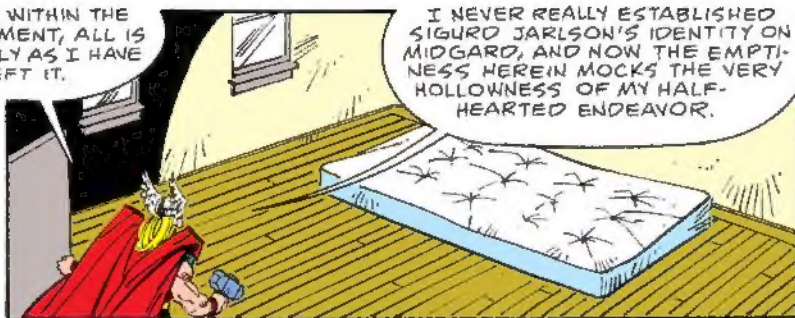
MJOLNIR HAS BROUGHT ME HOME!





TIME. I MUST HAVE TIME TO THINK.

HERE WITHIN THE APARTMENT, ALL IS EXACTLY AS I HAVE LEFT IT.



I NEVER REALLY ESTABLISHED SIGURD JARLSON'S IDENTITY ON MIDGARD, AND NOW THE EMPTINESS HEREIN MOCKS THE VERY HOLLOWNESS OF MY HALF-HEARTED ENDEAVOR.



'TIS BUT THE SKELETON OF A HOME, NOT A HOME ITSELF.

I CANNOT REMAIN HERE!



THE AVENGERS' MANSE AND ITS INHABITANTS WOULD WELCOME ME WITH OPEN ARMS, BUT COMPANIONSHIP IS NOT MY NEED...

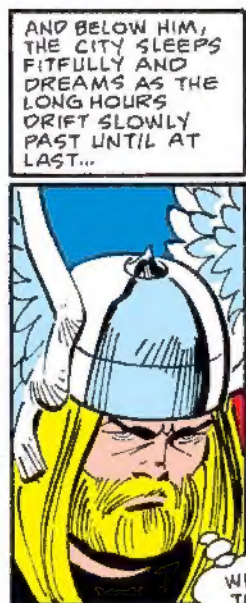
...AND I WOULD NOT BE FIT COMPANY FOR ANYONE AT THIS MOMENT.



WHAT BOOTS PRIDE IN A POWER THAT CAN SHAKE THE UNIVERSE WHEN THAT POWER CANNOT DISCLOSE THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF MY FATHER'S FATE?



PERHAPS THE NIGHT AIR WILL CLEAR MY HEAD AND GIVE ME RESPITE FROM SUCH ENDLESS THOUGHTS.



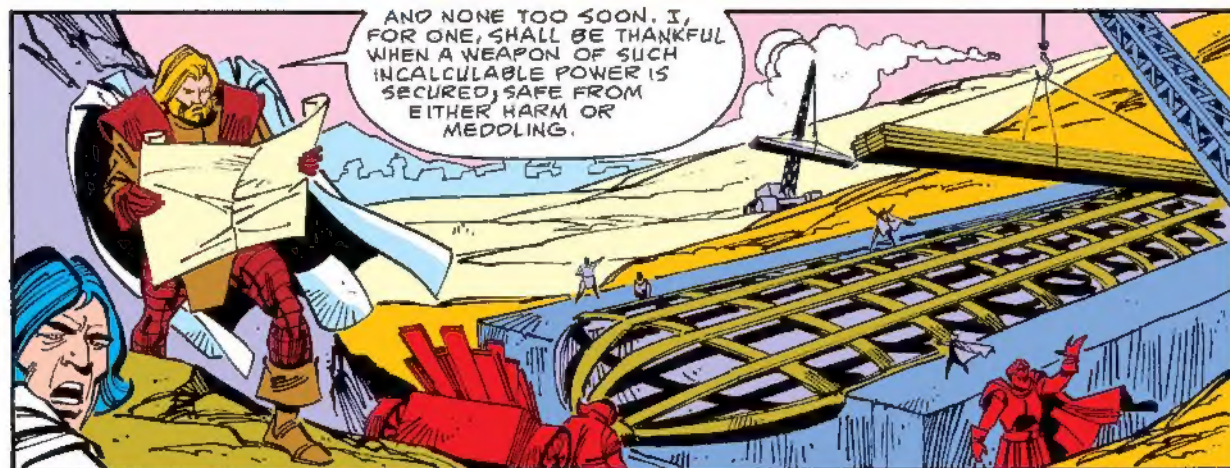
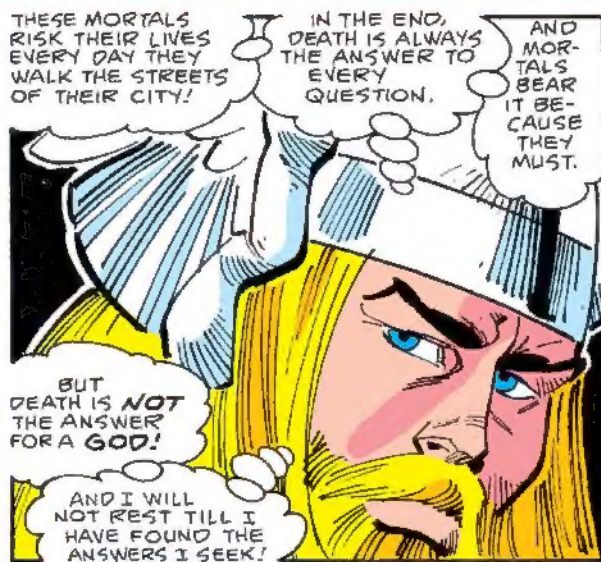
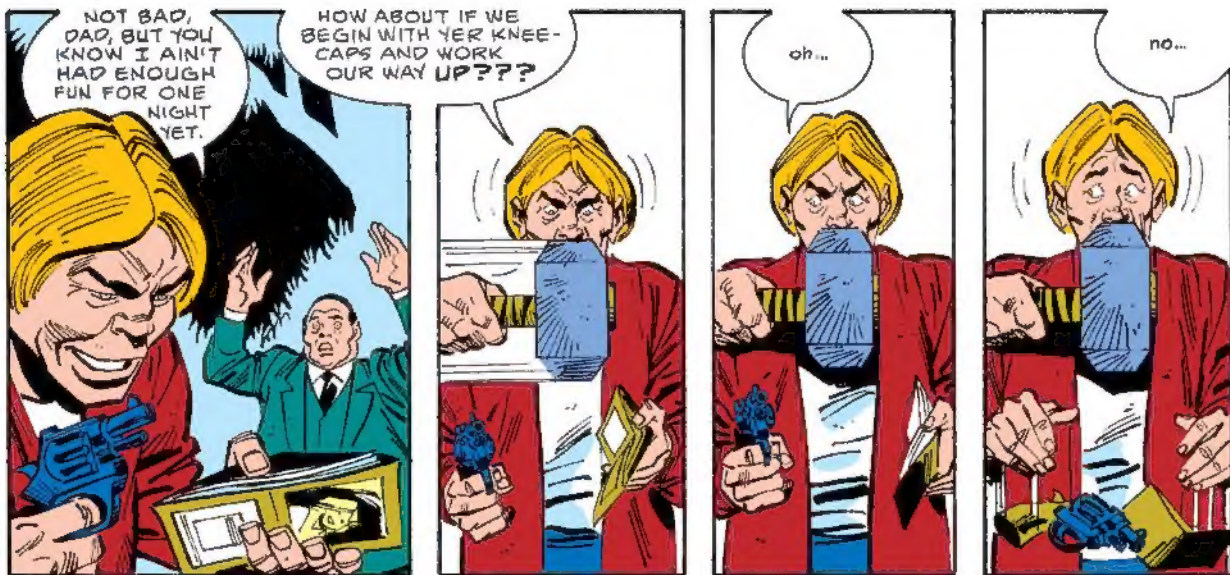
AND BELOW HIM, THE CITY SLEEPS FITFULLY AND DREAMS AS THE LONG HOURS DRIFT SLOWLY PAST UNTIL AT LAST...



DONATION TIME, POPS!

LET'S SEE YOU GIVE EVERY CENT YOU GOT TO A WORTHY CAUSE.

WHAT'S THIS?



"THE GREAT SWORD OF SURTUR WILL REST HERE UNTIL THE END OF TIME WHEN ITS MASTER SHALL COME TO RECLAIM IT..."

...IN A GREAT HALL SOME DISTANCE AWAY, TWO SMALL BOYS ARE FINDING THEMSELVES IN UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS...



"...IF THE ANCIENT PROPHECIES ARE TRUE!"

AND AS THE WORK TO CLEAR THE SWORD CONTINUES...



MICK!
WAKE
UP!
LOOK!

HUH?

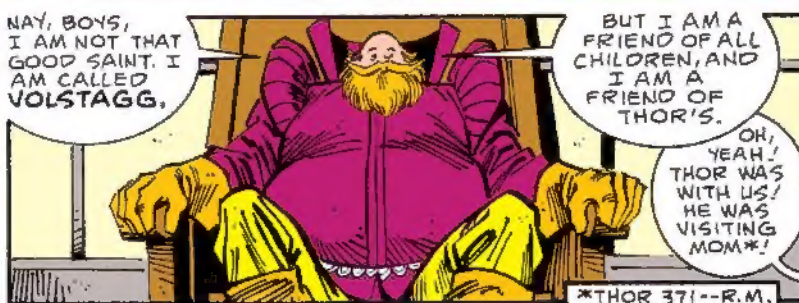
WHERE
ARE WE?
WHO'S
THAT?



IT SURE
ISN'T OUR
ROOM!

HE LOOKS
LIKE...IT
CAN'T BE,
CAN IT,
KEY?

SANTA
CLAUS?
IS THAT
YOU?



NAY, BOYS,
I AM NOT THAT
GOOD SAINT. I
AM CALLED
VOLSTAGG.

BUT I AM A
FRIEND OF ALL
CHILDREN, AND
I AM A
FRIEND OF
THOR'S.

OH,
YEAH!
THOR WAS
WITH US!
HE WAS
VISITING
MOM*!

*THOR 371--R.M.



INDEED, AND
THOR BROUGHT
YOU HERE TO
ME.

BUT...
WHAT
ABOUT
MOM?

CHILDREN,
THIS IS THE
TIME FOR
COURAGE.

YOUR
MOTHER
WAS KILLED
BY AN
ASSASSIN.
THOR SLEW THE
ASSASSIN HIM-
SELF, BUT TOO
LATE TO
SAVE YOUR
MOTHER.



SHE CANNOT CARE
FOR YOU ANY LONGER,
SO THOR HAS BROUGHT
YOU HERE TO STAY WITH
ME FOR A WHILE UNTIL
YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH
TO CARE FOR
YOURSELVES.

KEY?



AND IN ONE SMALL
CORNER OF ASGARD,
THERE IS NOT ENOUGH
SUNSHINE IN ALL THE
GOLDEN REALM THAT
CAN LIGHTEN THE SOR-
ROW IN THE HOUSE OF
VOLSTAGG.

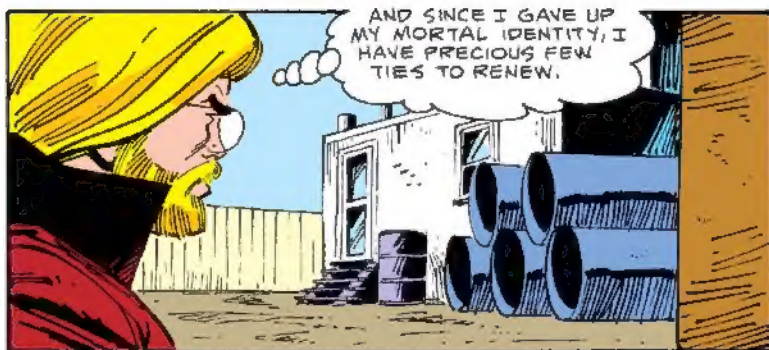
WHERE IS
SHE, REALLY?
MOM! MOM!
WHERE ARE
YOU?!!

YOU'RE
LYING! MOM
WOULDN'T LEAVE
US! WE DIDN'T
SEE HER DIE!

ELSEWHERE, ON THE WEST SIDE OF LOWER MANHATTAN...

THE TIME HAS COME TO RENEW OLD TIES WITH MIDGARD.

I WORKED BRIEFLY AT THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE BEFORE THE BATTLES WITH SURTUR CARRIED ME AWAY TO ASGARD AND BEYOND,



AND SINCE I GAVE UP MY MORTAL IDENTITY, I HAVE PRECIOUS FEW TIES TO RENEW.

I WONDER IF THE FOREMAN, JERRY, WILL EVEN REMEMBER--

SIGURD JARLSON! YOU SON OF A GUN!

GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! WHERE THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF?

YOU LOOKIN' FOR WORK AGAIN? WE COULD USE A GOOD STEEPLE-JACK!

YOU SURE WENT UP THE LADDER IN A HURRY BEFORE WHEN THAT DRAGON KNOCKED US BACK TO SQUARE ONE*!

*THOR 341, old-timers! --Old Raf.

YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MADE MUCH PROGRESS SINCE I WAS LAST HERE.

LISTEN, BUSTER, IF YOU'D HAD A BUILDING KNOCKED DOWN AS MANY TIMES AS THIS ONE...

...YOU'D COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT THE INSURANCE COMPANIES'D EVEN LET YOU IN THE FRONT DOOR, LET ALONE COVER YOU!

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE LOOKIN' A LITTLE PEAKED, SIGURD. LIKE MAYBE YOU LOST SOME WEIGHT.

AND THE BEARD IS NEW, TOO. DOESN'T LOOK BAD, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S YOU!

YOU OKAY?

FINE, JERRY, FINE. I REALLY JUST DROPPED BY TO SAY HELLO.

ON ACCOUNT OF US BEIN' OLD BUDDIES? C'MON, SIGURD, SPILL IT.

WELL, ACTUALLY, MY FATHER... PASSED AWAY RECENTLY. I... I GUESS...

IT'S TOUGH TO GET LEFT ALONE, IS THAT IT? YOU GOT ANY OTHER FAMILY?

NOBODY... NEARBY.

WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL YOU SAVED*?

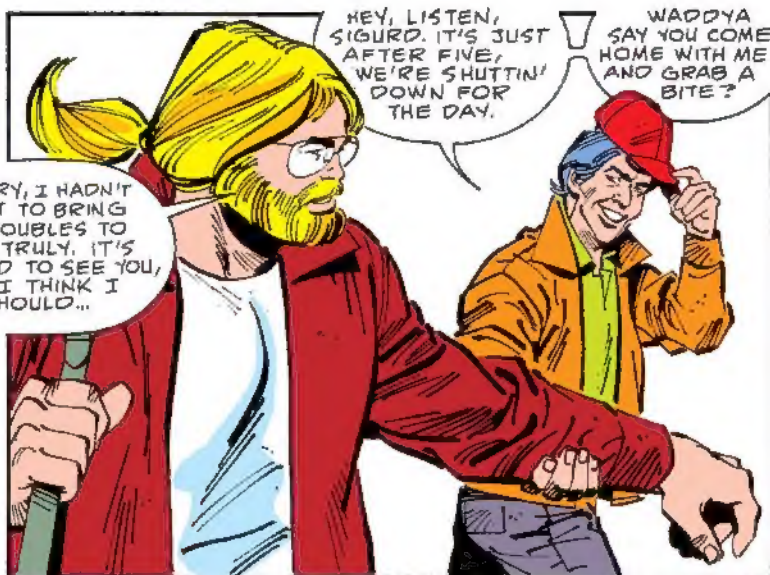
*THOR 341--R.M.



THAT...UH...
DIDN'T
EXACTLY
WORK
OUT.

NO CLOSE FRIENDS
EITHER, I'LL BET. YOU
LIVE OUT IN BAY RIDGE
BY YOURSELF,
RIGHT?

JERRY, I HADN'T
MEANT TO BRING
MY TROUBLES TO
YOU, TRULY. IT'S
GOOD TO SEE YOU,
BUT I THINK I
SHOULD...



HEY, LISTEN,
SIGURD. IT'S JUST
AFTER FIVE,
WE'RE SHUTTIN'
DOWN FOR
THE DAY.

WADDYA
SAY YOU COME
HOME WITH ME
AND GRAB A
BITE?



WELL,
REALLY,
I DON'T
THINK--

AH, BALONEY! THE OLD
LADY LOVES TO HAVE COM-
PANY! BESIDES, I RUN
THE SHIP!



SHORTLY...

COBBLE HILL'S
A NICE PLACE,
BUT MAYBE A
LITTLE TOO
FANCY THESE
DAYS.

WE WERE
LIVIN' HERE WHEN
ALL THESE
YUPPIES WERE
JUST BABY
BOOMERS.

GOOD THING,
TOO! WE SURE
AS HECK COULDN'T
AFFORD THE
RENTS THEY'RE
PAYIN'.



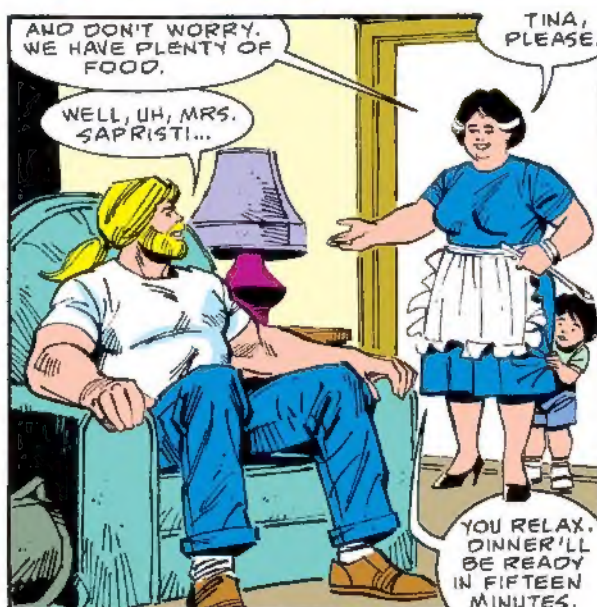
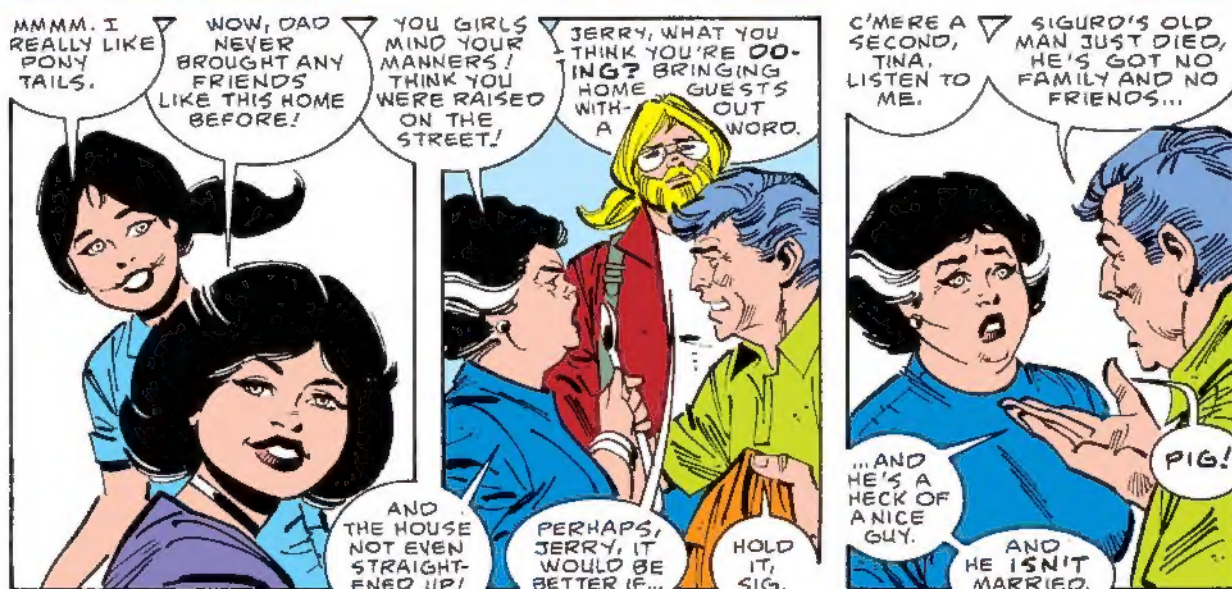
"BOUTIQUES"
INSTEAD OF
WOOLWORTH'S,
"CUISINE" IN-
STEAD OF
COFFEE
SHOPS.

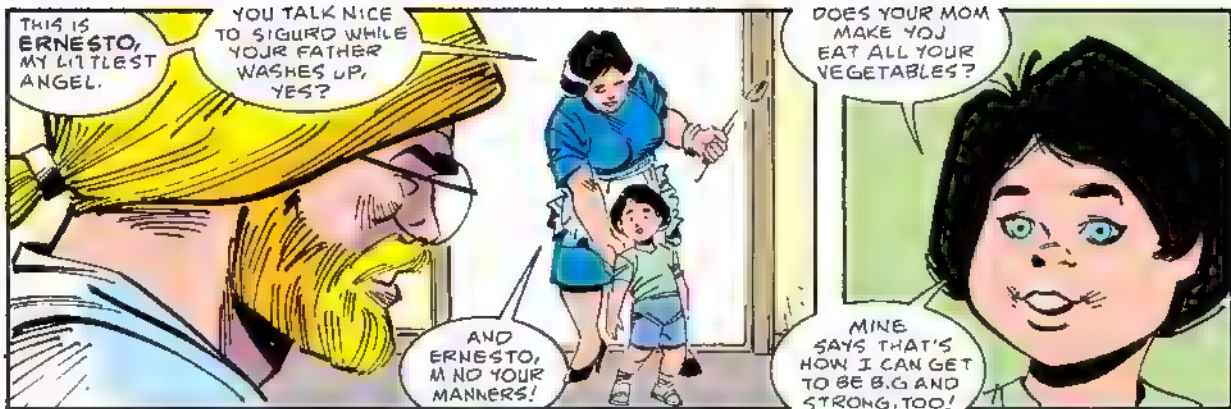
GETTIN'
TOO RICH
FOR MY
BLOOD.

THEY
MUST
ALL BE
NUTS!



TINA,
HONEY, I'M
HOME! GOT
A FRIEND
WITH ME!





THIS IS ERNESTO, MY LITTLEST ANGEL.

YOU TALK NICE TO SIGURD WHILE YOUR FATHER WASHES UP, YES?

AND ERNESTO, M NO YOUR MANNERS!

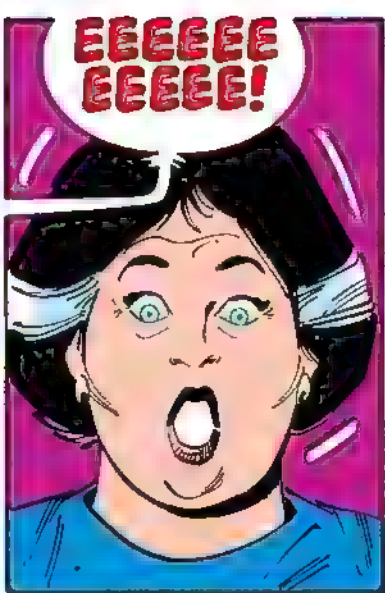
DOES YOUR MOM MAKE YOU EAT ALL YOUR VEGETABLES?

MINE SAYS THAT'S HOW I CAN GET TO BE B.G AND STRONG, TOO!



HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE MAN, AND NOT MARRIED YET! WHAT A SHAME!

JUST LAST WEEK I WAS TELLING JUDY THAT--

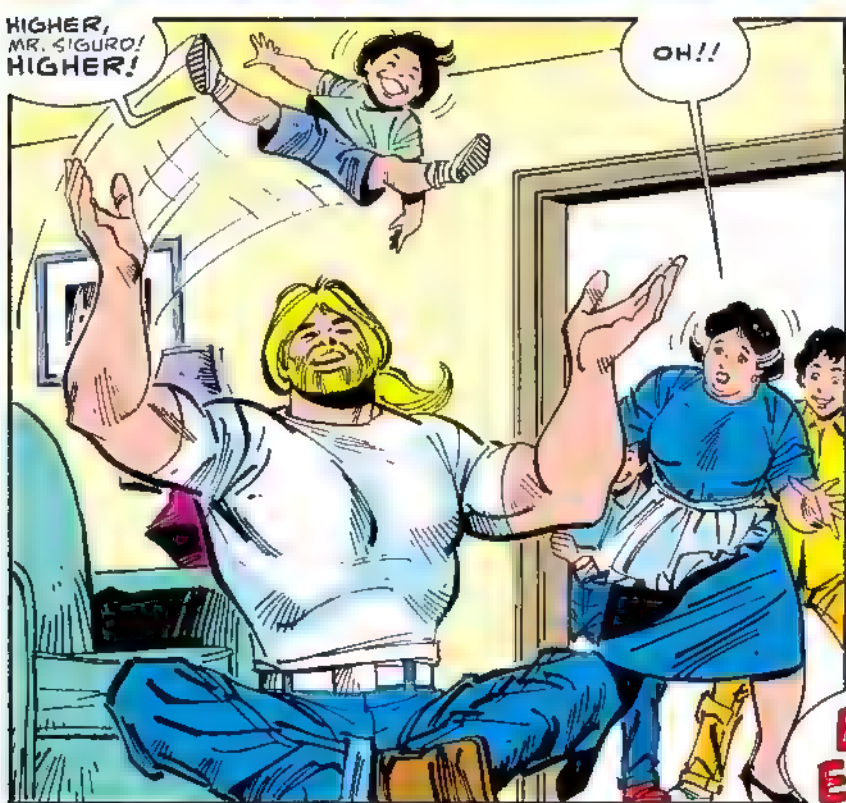


EEEEEE EEEEE!



ERNESTO! MY ANGEL! WHAT'S HAPPENED ???!

WHEEEE EEEE!



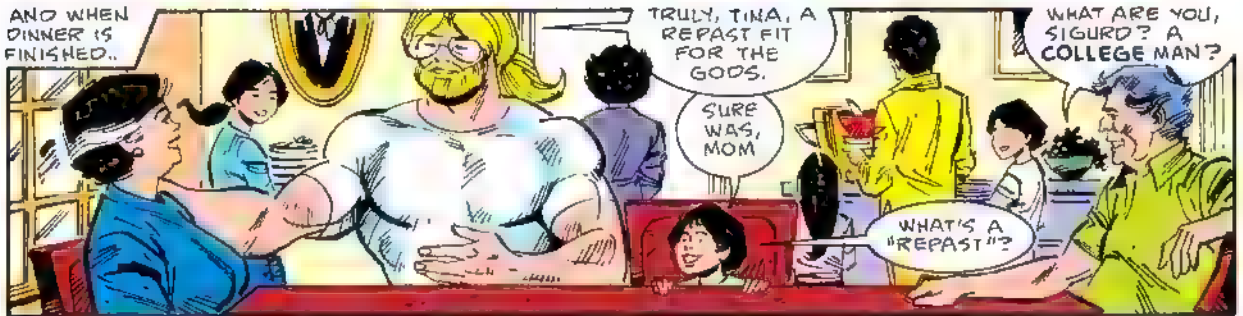
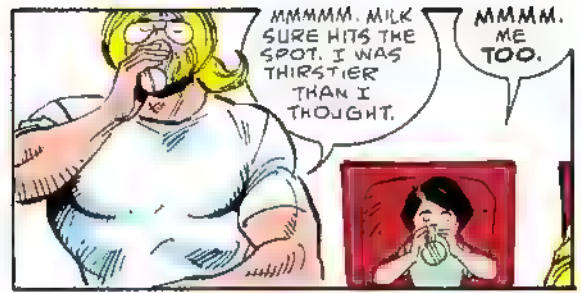
HIGHER, MR. SIGURD! HIGHER!

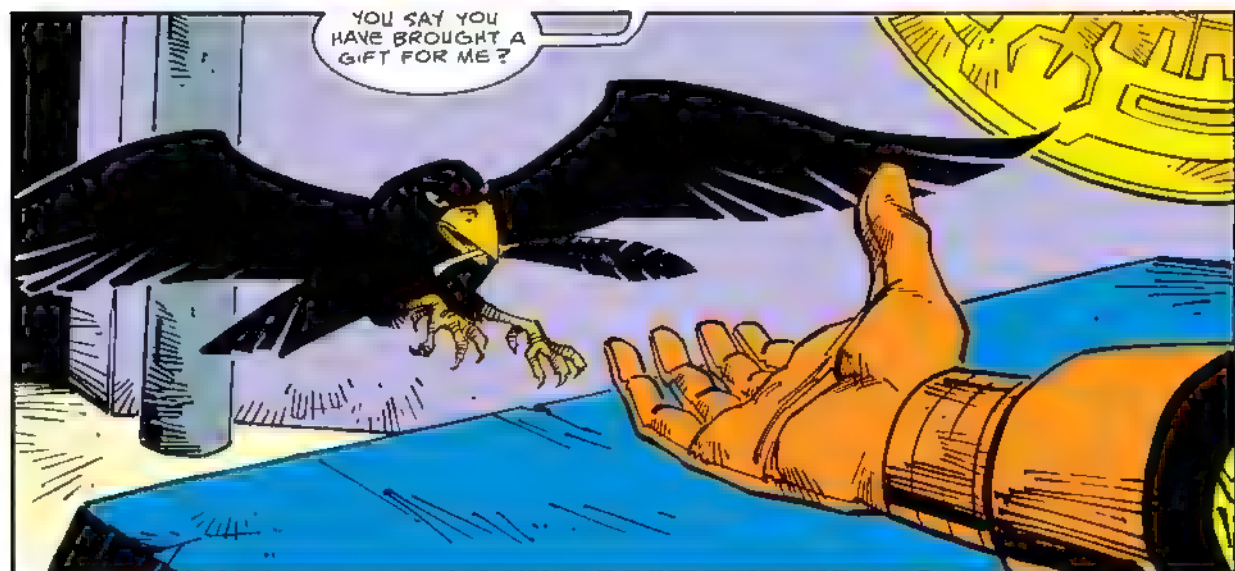
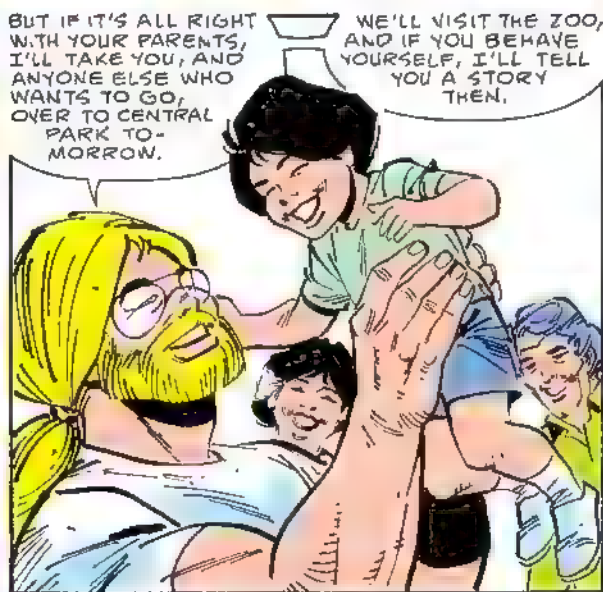
OH!!



RELAX, MOM LOOKS LIKE PESTICIDE'S IN GOOD HANDS!

EEEEEE EEEEE!







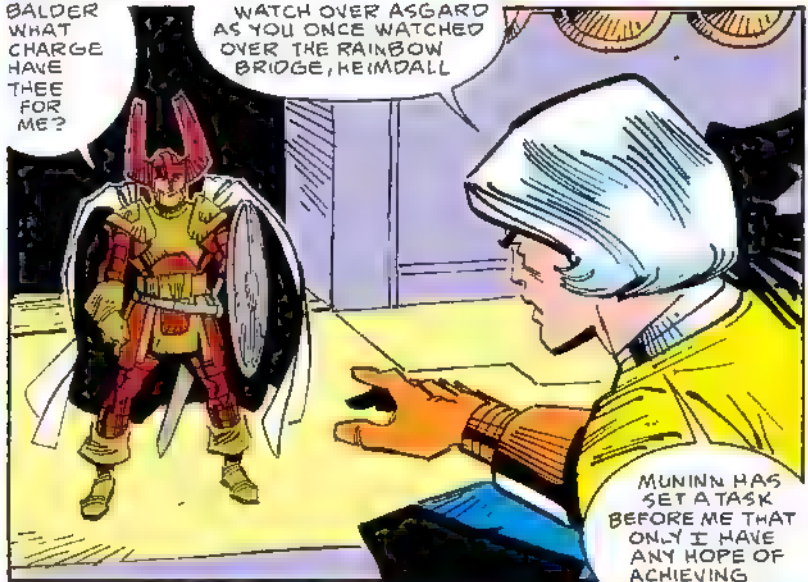
A SINGLE BLACK FEATHER. AND I DO NOT NEED THE OMN SCIENCE OF ODIN TO KNOW TO WHOM THIS FEATHER BELONGED.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL. AND THERE MAY BE A HELP FOR US



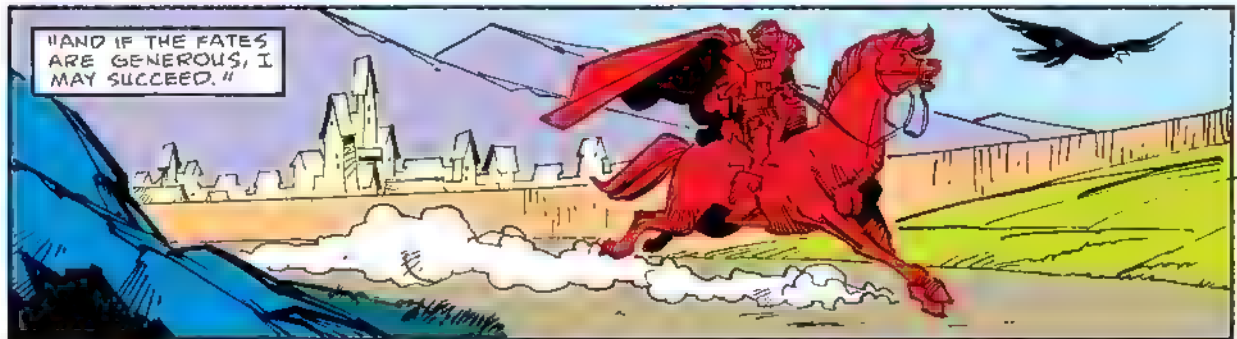
SUMMON HEIMDALL, MUNINN QUICKLY

I HAVE COME, BALDER WHAT CHARGE HAVE THEE FOR ME?

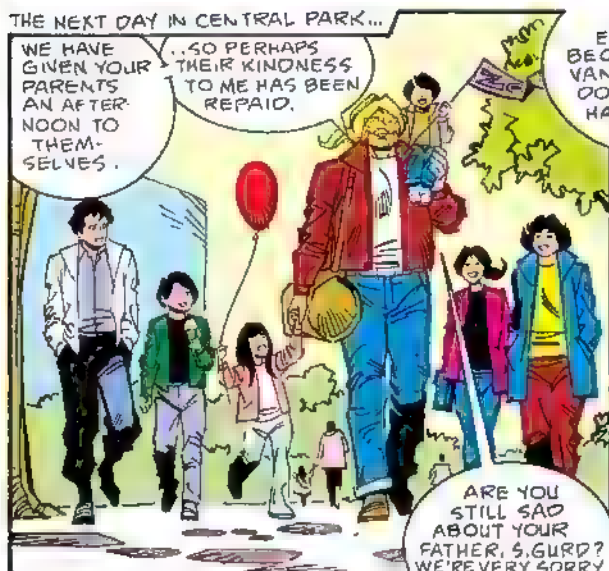


WATCH OVER ASGARD AS YOU ONCE WATCHED OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, HEIMDALL

MUNINN HAS SET A TASK BEFORE ME THAT ONLY I HAVE ANY HOPE OF ACHIEVING



"AND IF THE FATES ARE GENEROUS, I MAY SUCCEED."



THE NEXT DAY IN CENTRAL PARK...

WE HAVE GIVEN YOUR PARENTS AN AFTER NOON TO THEMSELVES.

...SO PERHAPS THEIR KINONESS TO ME HAS BEEN REPAID.

ARE YOU STILL SAD ABOUT YOUR FATHER, S.GURD? WE'RE VERY SORRY

THANK YOU, ERNESTO I'M SAD BECAUSE MY FATHER VANISHED AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

THEN MAYBE HE'LL COME BACK.

MAYBE SO, I GUESS I STILL HAVE HOPE, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO



IT'S LIKE A STORY WITHOUT AN END.

CAN WE
HAVE OUR
STORY
NOW?

SURELY,
GABRIELLA.

THIS SHALL BE A STORY
OF OLD GODS WHO ONCE
ROAMED THE EARTH AND ALL
THE REALM OF ENCHANT-
MENT THAT SURROUND-
ED IT.

OUR HERO IS A
STRAPPING YOUNG
GOD WHO
WALKED TALL
IN THE PRIDE
OF HIS YOUTH.



HAS HE GOT
A NAME? DOES HE
HAVE A SWORD?

"HIS NAME, ERNESTO, WAS THOR.

"AND INSTEAD OF A SWORD,
HE CARRIED A MIGHTY
HAMMER WITH WHICH HE
FOUGHT AND SLEW HIS
ENEMIES, THE FROST
GIANTS.

"IT WAS
DUSK
WHEN
HE CAME
TO THE
RIVER.

"...AND ON THE FAR
SIDE IN THE SHADOWS,
HE COULD JUST
MAKE OUT THE
FERRY AND THE
FERRYMAN."

"WE HAD BEEN OUT
KILLING GIANTS
AND WAS HEAD-
ING HOME.



HO, FERRYMAN, COME
AND CARRY ME
ACROSS THIS WIDE RIVER.
I'LL PAY YOU
WELL.

HUMPH!
BEGGAR'S RAGS.
TATTERS. I DOUBT
YOU HAVE A PLACE TO
CALL YOUR OWN!

NEITHER THIEVES NOR
ROBBERS, BUT ONLY THE
DESERVING DO I CARRY
ACROSS THE WIDE RIVER.
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE
IF YOU WANT TO CROSS!

I AM THE SON OF
ODIN, STRONGEST
OF THE GODS!
MJOLNIR IS MY WEAPON
AND THOR, THE
THUNDERER IS MY
NAME! WHO ARE
YOU? ARE YOU
SOME OUTLAW?

HARBARD
THEY CALL ME;
I HIDE NOT MY
NAME! AND I
CAN HOLD MY
OWN AGAINST
A WINDBAG
LIKE YOU!



WHAT?!! YOU'RE NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE OF WADING AND GETTING WET, BUT I'LL REPAY YOU WHEN I'VE CROSSED!

BAH I'LL WAIT FOR YOU. YOU HAVEN'T FOUGHT ANYONE AS STRONG AS ME SINCE YOU MET HRUNGNIIR THE GIANT!

I LAD HIM OUT LIFELESS WITH A SINGLE BLOW, FERRYMAN. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

I'VE MAGICKED WOMEN AND SET PRINCE AGAINST PRINCE! WAR IS WHAT I'VE CAUSED, THOR. AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

I SLEW THE GIANTS' WOMEN WHO WOULD HAVE SLAIN MANKIND! NOW COME! ROW ME ACROSS!

NEVER. WHO WOULD TRUST THOR OATH-BREAKER?

WHAT, YOU LYING FELLOW?! THE WORD OF THOR IS HIS BOND!

THEN SWEAR TO SOMEONE ELSE. I'M NOT ROWING YOU ACROSS TODAY.

THUS WAS THOR THE HERO FORCED TO WALK THE WEARY WAY ROUND THE RIVER AND LONG WAS HE IN HIS HOMECOMING

AND WHEN HE REACHED HIS HALLS, HE FOUND THE FERRYMAN BEFORE HIM, HIS OWN FATHER, ODIN, WHO HAD BEEN DISGUISED AS HARBARD.

HIS OWN FATHER!?

BUT WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A MEAN THING?

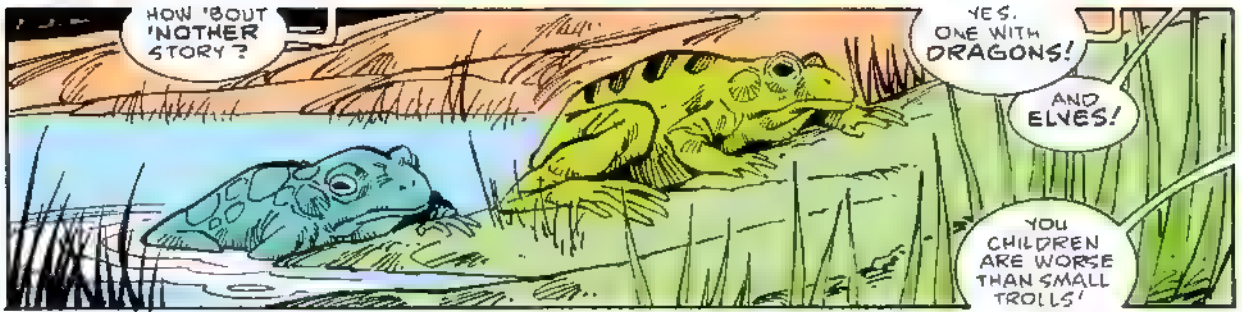
I'VE NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT MYSELF UNTIL NOW.

PARTLY, IT WAS THE GAME. ODIN LOVED TO ROAM ABOUT THE NINE WORLDS. AND HE LOVED TO PUT ON DISGUISES AND FOOL PEOPLE.

BUT PERHAPS HE ALSO WANTED HIS SON THOR TO KNOW THAT IN THE END, YOU HAVE ONLY YOURSELF TO RELY ON.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, NO ONE CAN CARRY YOU ACROSS THE RIVER. NOT YOUR FATHER, NOT YOUR MOTHER, NOT YOUR GIRL OR BOY FRIEND.

YOU HAVE TO WALK THROUGH THE SHADOWS ON YOUR OWN



HOW 'BOUT
'NOTHER
STORY?

YES.
ONE WITH
DRAGONS!

AND
ELVES!

YOU
CHILDREN
ARE WORSE
THAN SMALL
TROLLS!



VERY WELL.
HOW ABOUT A
STORY OF A
LONELY
MOUNTAIN
--?

RIBBIT!
RIBBIT!



ICK!
FROGS!
SHOO!
SCAT!

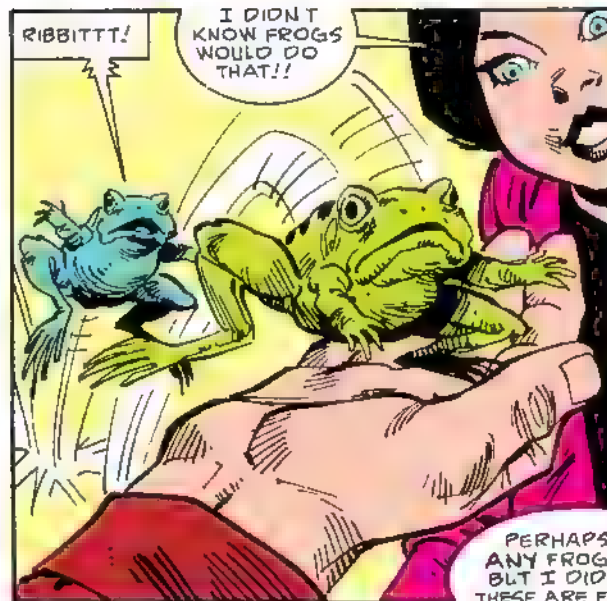
NAY, HOLD, ROSA. I
THINK MY O.O FRIEND
PUDDLEGULP HAS
RECOGNIZED ME
EVEN THOUGH I... I
WAS NOT WEARING
A BEARD WHEN
LAST WE MET *.

I DOUBT IF
THEY WOULD
CARE TO
LEAVE THE
RESERVOIR
HERE N
THE PARK,
ERNESTO.

BUT WE CAN
SAY HELLO
TO THEM
COME, PUDDLE-
GULP, COME,
BUGEYE!

YOU'RE
KIDDIN'!
WOW! DO
YOU REALLY
KNOW SOME
FROGS? CAN I
TAKE 'EM TO
SCHOOL?

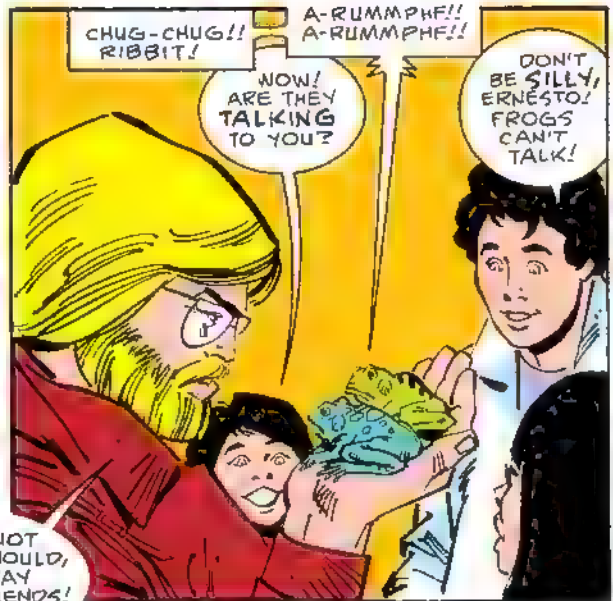
*He sure wasn't! Thor was a frog then,
too--THOR 364/365--Recappin' Ralt.



RIBBITTT!

I DIDN'T
KNOW FROGS
WOULD DO
THAT!!

PERHAPS NOT
ANY FROG WOULD,
BUT I DID SAY
THESE ARE FRIENDS!



CHUG-CHUG!!
RIBBIT!

A-RUMMPHE!!
A-RUMMPHE!!

NOW!
ARE THEY
TALKING
TO YOU?

DON'T
BE SILLY,
ERNESTO!
FROGS
CAN'T
TALK!

WHAT??
AND WHEN
DID THIS
HAPPEN?

NEEDEEEEP!
NEEDEEEEP!

VERY WELL,
PUDDLEGULP, YOU
AND BUGEYE GET
BACK TO THE OTHERS
AND STAY UNDER
COVER FOR A
WHILE.

I'LL
TRY TO
DISCOVER
THE TRUTH OF
THE MAT-
TER

THEN
AGAIN,
MAYBE
FROGS
CAN
TALK

SIGURD?

TESTING!
TESTING!
EARTH TO
SIGURO!

WHAT? OH,
I AM SORRY,
PETRO. I WAS
THINKING OF
SOMETHING
ELSE

SOMETHING
TERRIBLE
SEEMS TO
BE HAPPENING
AND I MUST LOOK
INTO IT. I'M...
I'M A SORT OF
UNDERCOVER
POLICEMAN--

LISTEN,
CHILDREN,
I AM
GOING TO
HAVE TO
SEND YOU
HOME

WHO
TALKS TO
FROGS?

YES, WELL, THERE
ARE MANY KINDS OF
POLICEMEN. YOU
SEE--

DON'T
WORRY,
THOR YOUR
SECRET'S
SAFE WITH US.

WHAT?

POPPA ONCE THOUGHT
YOU WERE SPIDER-MAN,
BUT YOU'RE TOO BIG
FOR THAT. AND W.T.H
YOUR HAIR, THOR
SEEMED LIKE A
GOOD GUESS.

BESIDES, WE
SNUCK A LOOK
INSIDE YOUR
BAG LAST
NIGHT WHILE
YOU WERE
WASHING
DISHES.

ARE YOU
REALLY THE
ONLY ONE WHO
CAN LIFT YOUR
HAMMER?

ALMOST.

WELL, I'VE
READ A LOT
ABOUT NORSE
MYTHOLOGY
AND PROBABLY
KNOW EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW ALMOST.

THEN YOU KNOW THAT I AM THE GUARDIAN OF MANKIND AND WHEN DANGER THREATENS, I MUST GO.

BUT FIRST I MUST SEND YOU HOME.

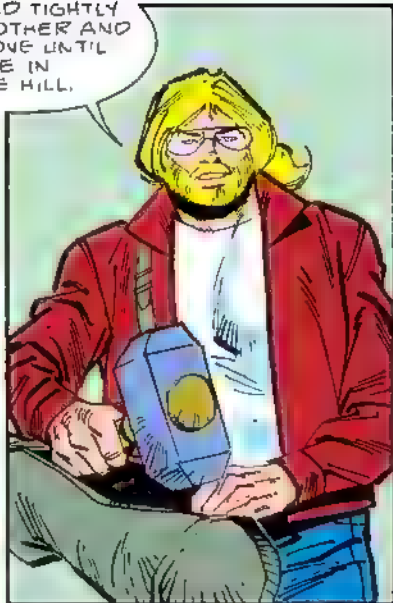


OH, YEAH? HOW? MAGIC

REALLY? AWESOME!!



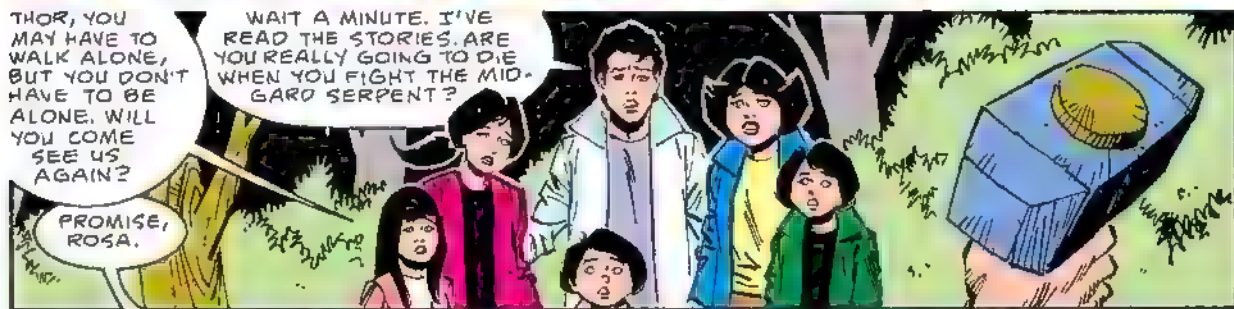
NOW HOLD TIGHTLY TO EACH OTHER AND DON'T MOVE UNTIL YOU'RE IN COBBLE HILL.



THOR, YOU MAY HAVE TO WALK ALONE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE. WILL YOU COME SEE US AGAIN?

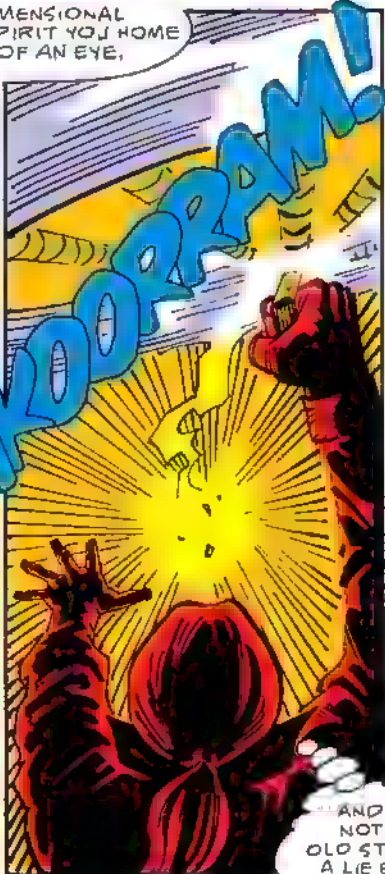
WAIT A MINUTE. I'VE READ THE STORIES. ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DIE WHEN YOU FIGHT THE MIDGARD SERPENT?

PROMISE, ROSA.



NOT EVERY OLD STORY IS TRUE, PIETRO.

A SIMPLE DIMENSIONAL VORTEX WILL SPIRIT YOU HOME IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

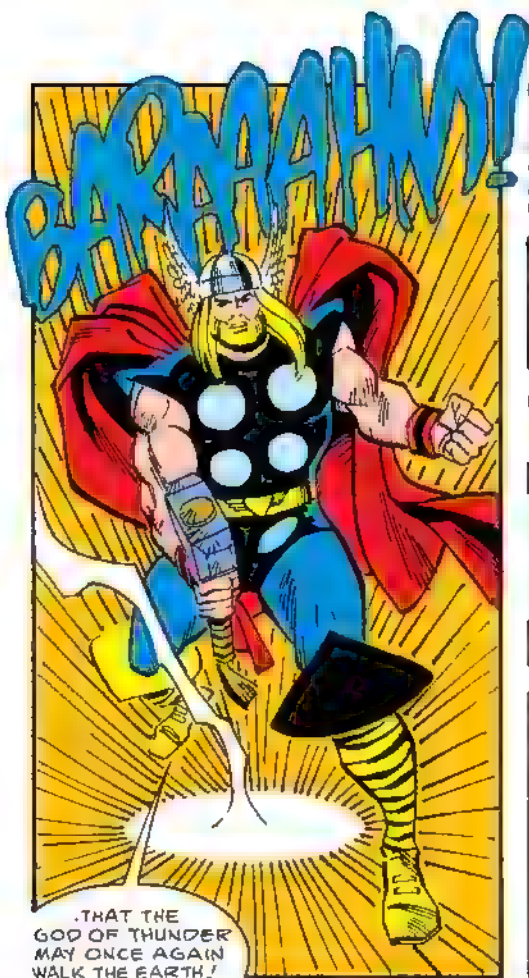


HARBARD, MY SLY FATHER, I MAY YET RECONCILE MYSELF TO BOTH HOPE AND IGNORANCE.

NOW LET THE ENCHANTMENT WITHIN MJOLNIR BE RELEASED..



AND MAYBE NOT EVERY OLD STORY TELLS A LIE EITHER.



FAR BENEATH THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN IS A NETWORK OF TUNNELS INHABITED BY STRANGE BEINGS.

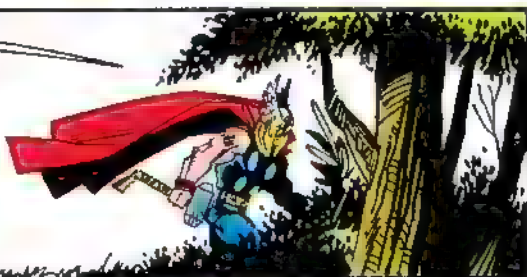


I MYSELF HAVE MET AT LEAST ONE OF THE INHABITANTS, A PIPER WHOSE ENCHANTED PLAYING COULD COMMAND ANIMALS SUCH AS HIS PET ALLIGATORS*.

*Thor met Piper in THOR 365--R.M.

HE WAS A STRANGE BUT HONORABLE MAN.

AND APPARENTLY, THERE WERE MANY OTHER DWELLERS IN THE DARK AS WELL.

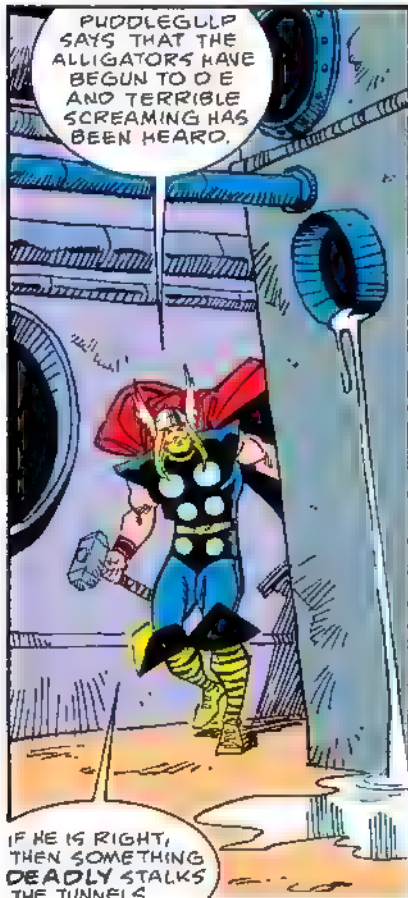


THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE HERE BESIDE THE GREAT LAWN WILL TAKE ME BENEATH THE CITY TO FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE.



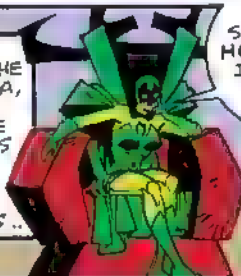
...THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER MAY ONCE AGAIN WALK THE EARTH!

PUDDLEGULP SAYS THAT THE ALLIGATORS HAVE BEGUN TO DIE AND TERRIBLE SCREAMING HAS BEEN HEARD.

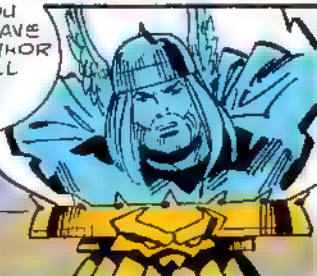


IF HE IS RIGHT, THEN SOMETHING DEADLY STALKS THE TUNNELS.

AND FAR AWAY FROM EARTH, THE GODDESS HELA, RULER OF THE REALM OF THE DEAD, WATCHES THOR MOVE DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE DARKNESS...



SO YOU ST'LL HAVE HOPE, THOR I SHALL CURE THAT



LITTLE DO YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR MOMENTARY WEAKNESS AS YOU RETURNED TO EARTH WAS A GIFT FROM ME.

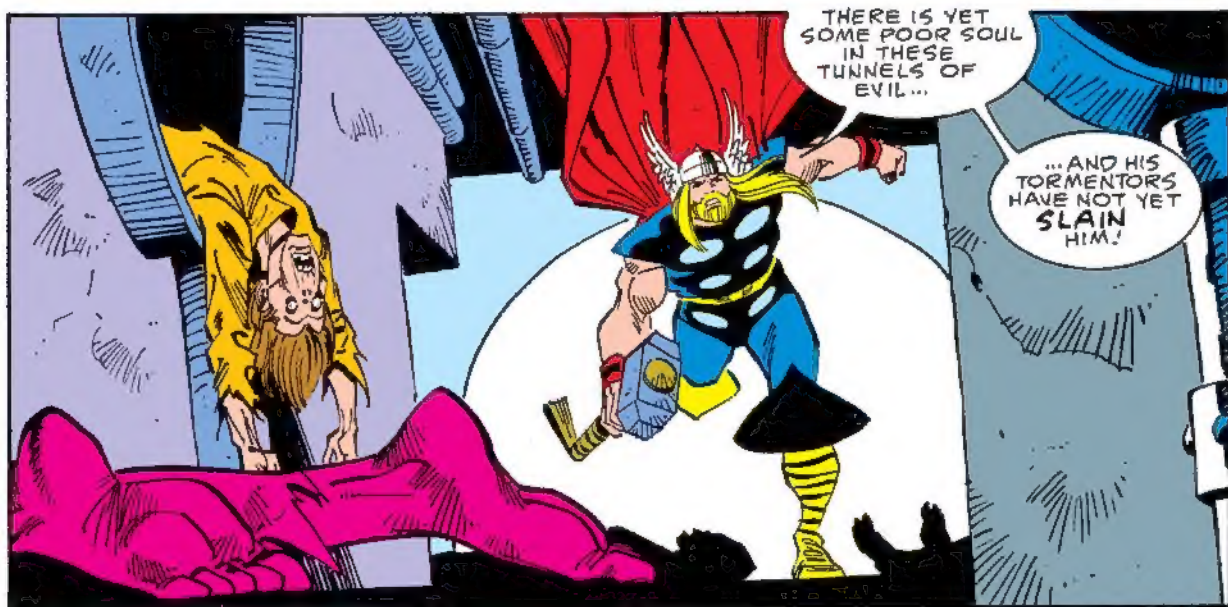
SHORTLY, THE POTENT SPELL WILL BEGIN TO TAKE EFFECT...

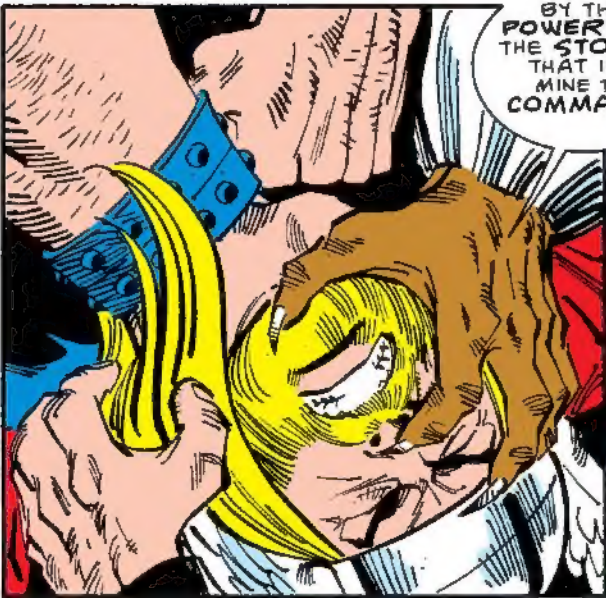
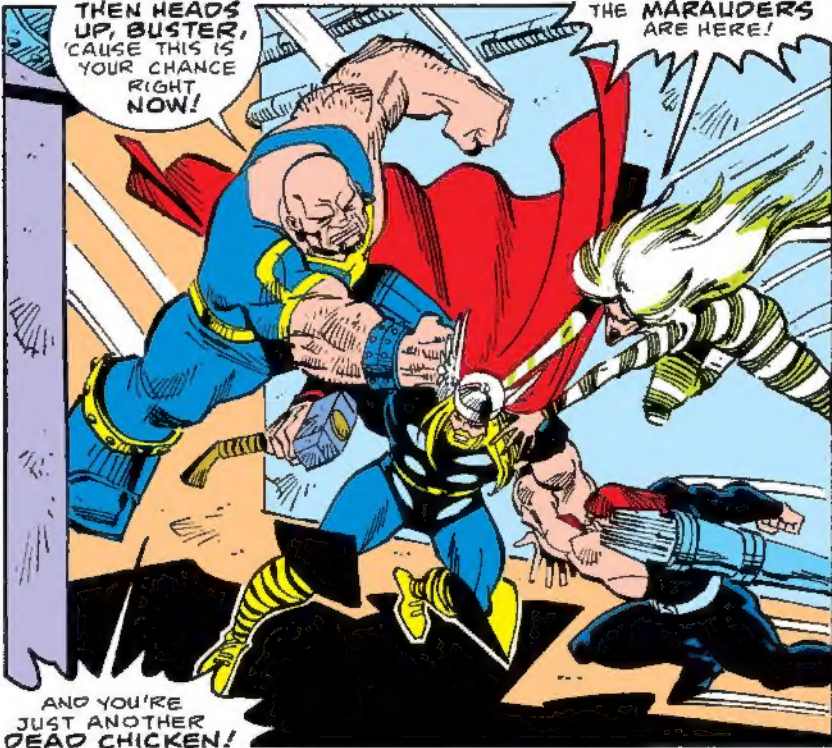
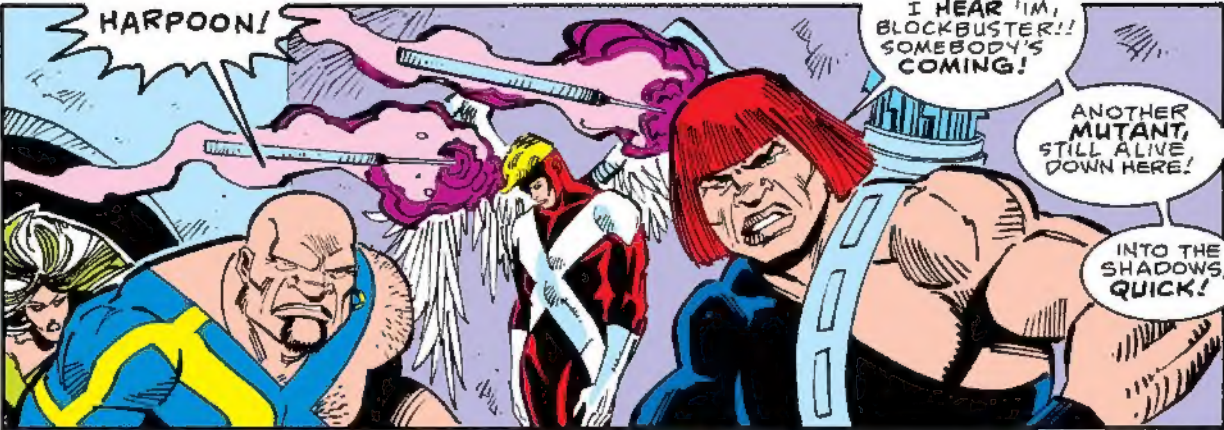


.. AND YOU SHALL BEGIN TO LEARN WHAT HOPELESSNESS REALLY IS.

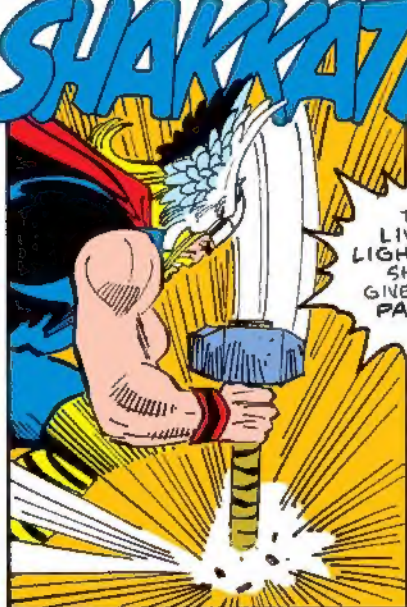
THERE ARE NO SHADOWS WHEN THERE IS NO LIGHT!







SHAKKATHOOM!



THE LIVING LIGHTNING SHALL GIVE THEE PAUSE!



HOLY--!! I CAN'T SEE!

BACK OFF!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



FLEE, CRAVENS! THE TUNNELS ARE NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO HIDE YOU FROM THE WRATH OF THOR!



YET WHO ARE THESE KILLERS AND WHY SHOULD THEY SEEK THE DEATH OF THE DWELLERS HERE IN THE DARKNESS?



BEHIND ME! SOME PRESENCE I DID NOT SENSE BEFORE!

IS IT THE ANGEL OF DEATH HIMSELF?

WHAT NEW MENACE THREATENS THE GOD OF THUNDER?



BUT NO, 'TIS INDEED AN ANGEL, BUT ONE WHO SEEMS VERY LIKELY DEAD ALREADY.

ANOTHER VICTIM, NO DOUBT, OF THESE SO-CALLED MARAUDERS.



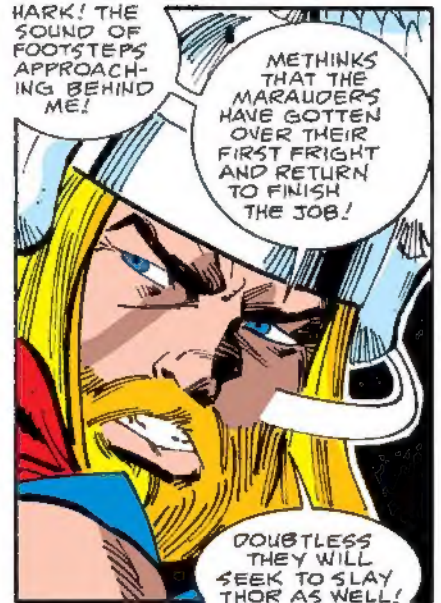
UHHHHH!

I WAS WRONG!
HE STILL
LIVES!



GENTLY, I
MUST REMOVE
THE SPIKES
THAT PIN HIM
TO THE WALL
AND LIFT
HIM DOWN.

HARK! THE
SOUND OF
FOOTSTEPS
APPROACH-
ING BEHIND
ME!



METHINKS
THAT THE
MARAUDERS
HAVE GOTTEN
OVER THEIR
FIRST FRIGHT
AND RETURN
TO FINISH
THE JOB!

DOUBTLESS
THEY WILL
SEEK TO SLAY
THOR AS WELL!



BUT THEY WILL
LEARN THAT EVIL
WALKS IN THE
SAME SHADOWS
AS THE GOOD!

COME, BOLD
ASSASSINS!
YOU SHALL
FIND THE
SON OF ODIN
WAITING FOR
YOU IN THE
DARK.

Next
Issue: **FIRES OF THE NIGHT!**

GUEST-STARING
X-FACTOR!!!
OR WHAT'S LEFT
OF THEM!
BE HERE!!!